

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **EU budget: city and regional networks back Parliament's position**

Leading European networks representing some two thousand cities and regions across Europe (the Local Alliance) welcome the European Parliament's [draft report on the proposed National and Regional Partnership Plans \(NRPPs\)](#) within the next EU budget for 2028–2034. The joint report from the REGI, BUDG and AGRI Committees marks an important step in shaping a future EU budget that is both effective and responsive to territorial realities.

The Local Alliance particularly welcomes the Committee's push to strengthen the role of regional and local authorities in the design and implementation of EU funding instruments, reinforcing partnership principles, and multilevel governance. The report also highlights the importance of territorial innovation and transition plans such as Territorial Just Transition Plans and Smart Specialisation Strategies and calls for dedicated funding for all regions and for sustainable urban development in a bid to safeguard cohesion policy principles and preserve place-based approaches.

The European Parliament's proposed improvements respond to growing concerns over the possible dilution of cohesion policy objectives, the marginalisation of regions and cities in delivering EU priorities and the risk of weaker transparency and accountability in the allocation of EU funds.

For the next steps of the negotiations, we call on the co-legislators to follow the European Parliament's clear positioning and ensure that the future EU budget:

- Preserves a strong and adequately funded cohesion policy as a cornerstone of European integration and solidarity;
- Guarantees meaningful involvement of local and regional authorities through robust multilevel governance and partnership principles;
- Maintains a clear territorial dimension, ensuring that policies are tailored to the diverse needs and capacities of Europe's regions;
- Ensures transparency, accountability, and accessibility in the design and implementation of NRPPs.

The Local Alliance also welcomes the draft report's recognition of local climate and energy planning, notably through references to the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans developed under the EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. This recognition acknowledges the central role cities and regions already play in turning EU climate and energy goals into concrete investment priorities – a message recently conveyed by Covenant of Mayors Board Members to the report's co-rapporteurs.

"We welcome the proposal to **secure at least 11% of ERDF funding for integrated territorial and urban strategies**. This reinforces a **place-based approach** and gives local and regional governments the certainty to plan, invest and deliver results." – Kamila Blahova, Mayor of Litvínov, CEMR Spokesperson on Territorial Cohesion.

As the legislative process on the EU budget moves forward, the Local Alliance remains committed to engaging constructively with co-legislators to ensure the new framework strengthens, rather than undermines, Europe's territorial cohesion and democratic governance.

#### **Notes to Editors**

Undersigned networks from the Local Alliance: [Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management \(ACR+\)](#); [The Council of European Municipalities and Regions \(CEMR\)](#); [Climate Alliance](#); [Energy Cities](#); [Eurocities](#); [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](#).

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